

SOLID WASTE DIVISION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Introduction to Program, Program Goals, and Key 2003-2008 Issues

The purpose of the Solid Waste Division capital program is to maintain the transfer and disposal system's ability to meet service demands. The program also ensures that these facilities are maintained and operated in accordance with applicable regulations in an environmentally responsible manner. Additionally, provisions are made for investigating the various landfills, providing environmental upgrades when necessary, and their eventual closure.

The 2003 capital program focuses on construction of Refuse Area 6 and the phased closure of Refuse Area 5 at the Cedar Hills Landfill. Design implementation for First Northeast and Bow Lake Transfer Station projects will continue. These projects represent important steps in the process of preparing the transfer system for waste export. In addition, construction projects at other transfer stations that address safety and regulatory issues are scheduled to be completed. These projects will include the replacement of five scale house complexes. Roofs at three transfer stations will also be replaced to address safety and seismic concerns. The Duvall and Puyallup landfills are being evaluated for the potential requirement to construct a cap for the sites. Final closure of the Vashon Landfill was substantially completed in 2002.

Project Prioritization Methodology

The highest priority solid waste projects are developed in order to comply with legal requirements such as the King County Board of Health Code (Title 10), Washington State Minimum

Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling (WAC 173-3-4), and Department of Labor and Industries mandates. The methodology used by the Division is based on the following criteria:

- regulatory mandates,
- the nature of the projects, and
- planning documents such as the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and the Cedar Hills Site Development Plan.

The timing of new disposal areas and of transfer station development and construction projects is based on facility conditions, tonnage disposal, and waste capacity projections. They are planned to minimize impact to the Division's customers and operations.

Growth Management and Comprehensive Plan Issues

The Solid Waste Division has no specific issues relating to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and concurrency. Project priorities are designed solely to meet existing needs and have been developed to align with the Comprehensive Plan Priority Growth Areas. No projects are proposed in new geographic areas. Projects requested in the Division's 2003 CIP are necessary to address environmental issues, and for facility safety enhancement and modernization.

Financial Planning and Policy Overview

Revenue sources supporting the six-year capital program vary by fund and include the following:

- The Landfill Reserve Fund collects dedicated per-ton fees from waste disposal activities and is used to develop future landfill areas, landfill closures and landfill support facilities. The financial planning for this fund involves identifying future needs of the solid waste system, then adjusting the per-ton rate to provide the resources necessary to meet these needs. Current policy issues focus on the purpose of the fund in relation to the Solid Waste Division's future functions and the fund balance levels necessary to meet these goals and objectives.
- The Environmental Reserve Fund is used to fund investigation and remediation costs related to active and closed solid waste handling facilities. The fund was created with an \$17 million transfer from the former Energy Resource and Recovery Reserve Fund and covers its costs with fund balance and accumulated interest earnings. Planning issues in this fund relate to projected future needs in this area. Alternative funding sources may be necessary if the fund balance is insufficient for remaining potential investigation and remediation.
- The remaining capital project funds were set up to account for the proceeds of various bond issuances which fund the majority of the Solid Waste capital

program. The debt service costs of these bond issues are paid through revenues in the operating fund earned from disposal fees. Beginning in 1998 the funding for the transfer system CIP has been supported by the Future Capital Projects account in the Landfill Reserve Fund. In 2002, \$3.7 million was transferred from the Rate Stabilization Account in the Solid Waste Operating fund to fund items identified in the Final Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

The principal financial planning issue addressed in these funds is related to the need to balance the capital needs of the solid waste program as defined by the six-year plan with the revenues generated by tipping fees. Issuance of bonds for future capital needs will exert upward pressure on disposal fees. King County has reviewed such basic policy issues as future waste transfer service levels and the long-term future of waste forecasts with the recommendation contained in the Final Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Depending on the outcome of these issues, the current six-year capital program and reserve fund policies could change significantly.

CIP Program Accomplishments and Completion Lists

Projects Completed in 2001

013112 TRANSFER STATION TIP FLOOR SAFETY

Construction Projects Completed in 2002

013092 1ST NE TS SAFETY IMPS

Construction Projects to be Completed in 2003

013327 W BUFFER FOREST MITIGATE

013333 CH SW IMPROVEMENTS